

United States Air Force **ONLINE** **news**

Inside

- Meeting the recruiting challenge 2
- Reservist education perks 3
- STARS drop in 4



Vol. 2, No. 19

The official USAF newspaper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>)

May 17, 2000

NEWSBYTES

PINs to be mailed

DENVER (AFPN) – Defense Finance and Accounting Service will activate its improved automated telephone Military Pay Line service in August.

DFAS will mail personal identification numbers, which are required to access the new system, to Air Force active duty and Reserve members in July as part of their leave and earnings statements.

PINs used for the current Air Force Pay Call system (800) 755-7413) will work with the new system. Service members who do not have a current PIN will have one issued for the new Military Pay Line.

Armed Forces Day

On May 20, U.S. military installations will observe the 50th anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

On Aug. 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department — the Department of Defense. To view the Armed Forces Day message from Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan, go to http://www.af.mil/news/May2000/n20000516_000751.html.

2 bases host ad filming

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) – Production crews will shoot four new commercials here and at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to help improve recruiting numbers. The 30-second television spots, scheduled to air nationwide in July, are aimed at enlistment-age youth and the adults who influence them.

The F-22 Raptor, B-2 Spirit and C-17 Globemaster III will appear in scenes while showing airmen in various career fields.

Battling the flames

Kirtland firefighters, Guardsmen fight Cerro Grande wildfire

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – Working 12-hour shifts, firefighters here have joined hundreds of their colleagues battling the Cerro Grande wildfire in northern New Mexico.

The fire has passed through and around Los Alamos, burning more than 32,000 acres and destroying more than 200 homes. It continues uncontrolled in forestlands, fueled by strong winds and tinder-dry underbrush.

The military firefighters joined the battle against nature around midnight May 10. Three days later, more than 500 Guardsmen, including 191 members of the 150th Fighter Wing here, were recalled to active duty by the governor of New Mexico to participate in fire-

continued on Page 3



U.S. Air Force photo

A member of the 150th Fighter Wing from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., helps unload boxes of donated goods provided to residents and rescue workers in the Los Alamos area. More than 500 active-duty and Guard members are helping battle the blaze.

USAF helicopter pilot honored

By Staff Sgt. Pachari Lutke

Headquarters United States Air Force

NEW YORK – It's perfect baseball weather at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx May 11. And here, in the house that Ruth built, Bill Denehan stands on the pitcher's mound. He tosses a baseball from hand to hand and pauses to turn to the crowd and wave. Then, in one fluid motion, he brings his arm forward and releases the ball, sending it toward home plate.

The ball smacks into the leather mitt of catcher Jorge Posada.

For die-hard fans wondering who the new pitcher is, the name Bill Denehan doesn't ap-

pear anywhere on the Yankees' roster. In fact, Bill Denehan is actually Capt. Bill Denehan, an Air Force helicopter pilot. The name may sound familiar, though – he was one of several servicemen who received the Silver Star for his part in the rescue of a downed F-16 pilot in Serbia during Operation Allied Force.

For this heroic act May 2, 1999, Captain Denehan received the American Legion's 1999 Aviator's Valor Award at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., in a ceremony May 12. The Valor Award recipient is picked each year by the chief of staff of each military service and is given to those who

continued on Page 4



Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>. Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

Go online to get Letters to the Editor. This week, one person wrote in about the enlistment bonus -- "I thought it was a rumor until I actually looked at the list..." -- and how he'd rather hire mercenaries because "a sense of duty or fighting spirit" cannot be bought.

Another reader wrote in about being pulled back to recruiting and responded to an earlier letter, stating that it's not about the money.

And, regarding "Be grateful for what you have," in the May 3 edition of Online News, another reader stated, "I am. After serving 14 years in the Air Force, I chose to get out ... I am now getting paid what I deserve...."

Get the complete letters online.

A salute to you

Go online to get the Joint Armed

Forces Day message by F. Whitten Peters, secretary of the Air Force and Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff.



Meeting the RECRUITING challenge

By Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton
Commander,
Air Education and
Training Command

It's been in the news media and we've been talking about it throughout the Air Force -- it's the challenge of continuing to recruit the number of quality young men and women needed to sustain the readiness and effectiveness of our Air Force. Last year, we fell short of our goals and this year is proving to be tough, too. But, with your help, we can successfully meet this challenge.

Our first priority is to strengthen our cadre of recruiters. We're working now to add 300 more recruiters where we need them most, in recruiting offices throughout America's communities. Air Force Secretary Whit Peters also announced a goal of raising the total number of recruiters to 2,000, up from 1,000 just a year ago. This initiative will help us establish a regular presence in communities previously only visited occasionally by an Air Force recruiter.

Individual supervisors can help with this recruiter force increase by encouraging sharp airmen to volunteer for this special duty assignment. The assignment isn't easy, but it can be rewarding and it's critical to our Air Force.

We're providing recruiters with more tools than ever to be successful. Paid television advertising is boosting our national visibility to our nation's youth. Air Force Recruiting Service has a Web page to help connect with the online generation. And, we've contracted for a traveling display, a high-tech attraction designed to ignite the interest of young adults. "The Air Force Experience" is an educational, exciting display of flight simulators, computer kiosks, dynamic video presentations and an F-16 static display aircraft. It's attracting widespread interest wherever it goes and providing good leads for recruiters.

"The Air Force Experience" is a great idea, but one display can only visit a limited number



of locations. We still need everyone in the Air Force to make a personal commitment in the spirit of the "We are All Recruiters" campaign. The biggest factor in success can be a person's initiative and motivation.

How can you do your part? Volunteer to escort when your base hosts student groups or educators and guidance counselors for tours or offer to speak at local high schools for

their career days. Be a youth mentor. Speak at community meetings about the opportunities, challenges and rewards of a military career.

You can also contribute by talking about your Air Force and wearing your uniform proudly as you travel. I've recently directed that all chief master sergeants and lieutenant colonels and above in AETC wear their uniform when traveling on official orders within the United States and I encourage others to do so, too. I hear many stories of military people being asked about life and careers in the military by people they meet while traveling.

You can add the personal touch -- relating how young men and women can learn valuable skills, gain additional education and see the world -- to what the American public might hear through advertising and news media. Often, you will clear up misconceptions based on misinformation.

It's interesting to note that two top recruiters for last year served in Honolulu and San Antonio, two cities with very high representation of military living and interacting with neighboring civilian communities. What this tells me is that in those communities where we are regularly seen and where our mission and lifestyle are familiar, recruiting is far more successful. And, we must do more to reach out to communities where there is little interaction with military people.

I believe we will turn the corner on recruiting this year. We're committing money and people to the task, but it will take everyone in the Air Force to do their part. (Courtesy of AETC News Service)



Aerospace integration is key

By Staff Sgt.
A.J. Bosker

Headquarters United
States Air Force

WASHINGTON — Aerospace integration is a key pillar in the Air Force's vision to meet the nation's requirements in a rapidly changing world, Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters told aerospace industry leaders May 12.

"We have been thinking a lot about the future of the Air Force in the 21st century," Secretary Peters said. "The next two decades will present many unknowns. Our challenge will be to create

a system of [integrated] aerospace systems that will be able to meet the full spectrum of [future] national security requirements — without being able to predict today precisely what those requirements will be.

"The integration of our aerospace forces and people is a critical element of our plan," he said. "This process will break down stovepipes between air and space, leading to integrated solutions with air and space systems that are



Aerospace integration allows the B-2 to use global positioning satellite targeting and GPS-aided munitions systems that multiply the bomber's effectiveness against enemy targets day or night in any weather.

aerospace power to field a more capable warfighting aerospace force, dominating the vertical dimension and achieving decisive results in conflict.

To achieve its aerospace integration, the Air Force must have commanders who are versed in all phases of aerospace operations and are as comfortable with space-based sensors as with aircraft systems, he said.

This article is available in its entirety online.

more effective and efficient than separate systems."

According to Secretary Peters, aerospace integration will permit Air Force commanders to provide a wide range of services including peacetime surveillance, delivery of humanitarian supplies, contingency operations and strategic attack from the United States.

By focusing on operations, the Air Force will not just enhance air power, but will capitalize on the broader capabilities of

Chief targets retention, people programs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)—Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan says retention is what the Air Force is all about these days, and current budget proposals and people programs reflect its commitment to erasing the effects of a decade of downsizing.

"I believe it in my heart," he said during a visit here May 10. "It is people who make the U.S. Air Force a wonderful, great organization and the strongest Air Force in the world. That's why we have pushed so hard for increased pay, additional bonuses and to turn around the retirement system. It's why we work on BAH (basic allowance for housing) increases and why we're currently working on the medical system. These are people issues. For us, retention is the issue."

This article is available in its entirety online.

MONEY MATTERS

New education incentives start for AF reservists

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Air Force reservists in 10 crucial career fields and those seeking tuition assistance can apply for two new education incentives starting June 1.

Air Force Reserve Command's Montgomery G.I. Bill-Selected Reserve "Kicker" program and AFRC's enhanced tuition assistance program are designed to boost recruitment and retention of unit reservists and individual mobilization augmentees.

Working in conjunction with the Montgomery G.I. Bill-Selected Reserve basic program, the kicker program will provide up to an additional \$350 per month to qualifying full-time students with certain skills (list is online).

People can learn more about the kicker and DANTES tuition assistance programs by visiting base education and training offices.

This article is available in its entirety online.

Kirtland firefighters, Guardsmen fight Cerro Grande wildfire

continued from Page 1

fighting efforts throughout the state.

Bringing rescue vehicles, water pumps, fire engines and an ambulance, the Kirtland fire-fighting team first contained a blaze threatening a Los Alamos National Laboratory facility.

The military team then joined forces with the Los Alamos County Fire Department in fighting residential fires spreading within the city limits. "We contained one house fire so that every one of the adjacent homes survived," said Fire Chief Dennis Lavoto, who headed up Kirtland's support.

Additional fire-fighting support was provided by the U.S. Forest Service's Albuquerque Air Tanker Station, which operates out of Kirtland.

Flying five different types of World War II-vintage aircraft, the USFS has flown 52 missions since May 5. Each of the aircraft delivers 2,000 to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant, which suppresses the spread of fire until ground crews can arrive.

The Kirtland Guardsmen were activated May 13 and are currently operating out of Santa Fe. The contingent includes security forces who are providing security within the city of Los Alamos, civil engineers who are providing damage assessment and services staff who are serving meals.

According to Capt. Kim Lalley, public affairs officer for the 150th FW, the Guardsmen have been tasked to escort families who have lost their homes back into the devastated areas of Los Alamos. (Courtesy of 377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs)

Brooks colonel charged

BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — An Air Force colonel was formally charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for unprofessional conduct with a junior officer May 10.

Colonel Alvin L. Hicks, former commander of the 311th Air Base Group, was charged with violations of Articles 134, indecent assault, and 93, mistreatment of a subordinate.

The charges resulted from an alleged incident in April. An Article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury, will determine if there is sufficient evidence for the case to be referred to a court-martial.



AF 'STARS' take to the skies

NAVAL AIR STATION KEYWEST, Fla. — When the crowd of 2,500 high school juniors and seniors peered into the bright blue California sky April 28, they saw STARS.

The Air Force's newest recruiting tool, the Special Tactics and Rescue Specialists parachute demonstration team, held its first official performance at the Palmdale, Calif., Salute to Youth program, bringing special operations parachute tactical maneuvers into the public eye.

"Getting out there in front of the American people is what STARS is all about," said Master Sgt. Stacey Poland, a combat controller assigned to the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron, McChord Air Force Base, Wash. "It's one of the best ways to show potential recruits who we are and what we do. We will do demonstrations at air shows and sporting



STARS drop in.

events, but our focus is on the younger audience.

"We want to get out to high schools around the country and do jumps before school assemblies or homecoming games," he said. "These are the people we need to reach out and touch with our messages about the Air Force and special tactics."

The STARS demonstrations feature teams of combat controllers and pararescuemen who are com-

bat-ready members of the most highly trained and elite special operations and combat search and rescue forces in the world.

As professional jumpers, STARS members perform routine jumps for demonstration purposes so team practice before an event is unnecessary.

This article is available in its entirety online.

AFPC releases supplemental board, explains process

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC) — The Air Force Personnel Center concluded the largest Senior Enlisted Supplemental Board in three years May 5, considering 119 cases. AFPC officials attribute the larger board to many added decorations arising from Operations Allied Force and Shining Hope. The results will be released to military personnel flights May 18 at 8 a.m. CST.

Each year, about 150 - 225 enlisted members request they be reconsidered for promotion by a semi-annual enlisted supplemental board. According to Chief Master Sgt. Greg Haley, chief of enlisted promotions, the number can fluctuate greatly from board to board.

The complete versions of the above articles are available online.

Savings bond campaign set

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC) — The Air Force will conduct its annual Savings Bond Campaign June 1-30. The campaign's theme is "Creating A New Century of Savings."

The 2000 campaign will sell both Series EE U.S. Savings Bonds and Series I U.S. Savings Bonds through the payroll deduction plan. The official allotment authorization forms for civilian and military people are Form SB 2104 for the EE Bonds and Form SB 2305 for I Bonds. Both forms contain an allotment schedule.

The Treasury Department announced May 1 the interest rates that will be in effect during the 2000 campaign are 5.73 percent for EE Bonds and 7.49 percent for I Bonds.

Helicopter pilot honored

continued from Page 1

performed a conspicuous act of valor or courage during aerial flight.

While in New York, Captain Denehan had a chance to speak to a group of students at Brentwood High School in Long Island, many of them Junior ROTC students, about his experiences in Operation Allied Force.

"The word came out that a pilot had gone down," he said. "None of the crews there that night had actually been on a rescue. Basically, it was the first time for us." He told the assembled students that nothing is accomplished without teamwork, and that night, teamwork was essential in rescuing the downed F-16 pilot.

Captain Denehan described the rescue as the greatest feeling he'd ever experienced. More than a year later, he felt pretty much the same after throwing out the first pitch at the Yankees game. "Indescribable. I've never experienced anything like that in my life," he said.

Before the game, Captain Denehan and his son Liam, 7, sat in the Yankees dugout as the players filed in. Few team members could resist the grin on Liam's lightly freckled face and stopped to give him their autographs — Chuck Knoblauch, David Cone, Joe Torre, just to name a few.

Father and son stood side by side with the team on the field during the playing of the national anthem, both with Yankees caps held over their hearts. And finally, it was time.

Booming across the stadium loudspeakers came the announcement, "Let's join the Yankees in welcoming Captain Bill Denehan and son Liam!" Captain Denehan, clad in his flight suit, and Liam, dressed in Yankees attire, headed to the pitcher's mound where they were cheered on by Yankees fans as the announcer read a list of the captain's accomplishments during Operation Allied Force.

This article is available in its entirety online.



U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

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